

UMW Foundation Buys Several New Properties

By MICHELLE DACHMAN
Staff Writer

The UMW Foundation recently bought the Park & Shop Plaza as well as the Pizza Hut and two houses across from campus.

On Dec. 15, UMW Foundation, a non-profit corporation that accepts and manages university funds, bought a new lot on Powhatan Street across from the UMW campus. The lot is home to the Pizza Hut along with two single family homes, which are located at 1214 Powhatan St. and the other is on 1217 Thornton St.

The two owners, who were planning to sell the homes, approached

the UMW Foundation about a possible purchase, according to Jeff Rountree, chief executive officer of the UMW Foundation.

The land was originally appealing to the Foundation as a parking lot for commuter students and one third of the block was already owned by the Foundation. Rountree said there are no plans to close down the Pizza Hut or change the business in any way.

"We hope it continues to operate as a Pizza Hut," Rountree said.

The Mary Washington Foundation bought the Park & Shop Plaza on Jan. 22.

The Park & Shop Plaza houses the Country Cookin' restaurant along

with Outlooks for Hair, Glass America Auto Glass and a Best-Way Rentals and Sales.

In a statement, President Judy Hample said, "They are the only properties immediately adjacent to the university that we believe we can acquire without disrupting the residential neighborhood of College Heights."

Rountree said he felt that the UMW Foundation needed to act quickly on the purchase to protect the College Heights community from any unfamiliar contractors and what they might suggest for the land.

PROPERTIES, page 9 ▶

Student Charged in Police Assault

By BRYNN BOYER
Staff Writer

A Mary Washington student was subdued with a Taser gun and arrested in an incident involving the assault of a police officer Saturday night at Sunset Thai, a restaurant in Central Park.

Sophomore Andrew Loney, 19, of Fredericksburg, was charged with a felony charge of assault of an officer as well as two misdemeanor charges of resisting arrest and underage purchase and possession of alcohol, according to Natatia Bledsoe, public information officer for the Fredericksburg Police Department.

Assault of an officer is a class six felony that, if convicted, carries a mandatory minimum of six months confinement, according to the Code of Virginia.

Loney declined to comment.

Two other students—an 18-year-old woman and a 20-year-old man—were also arrested at the restaurant for underage possession of alcohol and released.

At 11:25 p.m. on Saturday, Fredericksburg police showed up at Sunset Thai, after they had received an anonymous complaint that there was underage drinking going on at the restaurant. According to Bledsoe, the caller was a UMW student who wished to remain anonymous and who did not name any of those allegedly drinking underage.

According to the police report, when police arrived at Sunset Thai, an officer located an underage female with a beer in her hand, who was detained without incident. Police asked Loney, who was with the female student, for his identification.

Loney refused to show the officer his ID and struggled when the officer tried to escort him out of the bar area, according to Bledsoe.

According to the report, Loney pushed the officer, who fell backward and hit his head. After getting back on his feet, the officer arrested Loney with the assistance of other officers.

Bledsoe confirmed that Loney was sub-

dued with the Taser "due to his persistent non-compliance."

A Taser is a law-enforcement weapon that can cause temporary paralysis.

Loney was held at Rappahannock Regional Jail with no bond. He was arraigned and released on Tuesday morning, according to the Fredericksburg General District Court records. A preliminary hearing is set for March 4.

The officer was treated at Mary Washington Hospital for a head injury and a sprained finger, Bledsoe said. He has been on a break from duty this week and has said he will be back at work on Friday, Jan. 29, Bledsoe said.

According to Bledsoe, the case has been turned over to the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, which will have an agent conduct an investigation.

The ABC agent assigned to the case could not be reached for comment.

According to Andrew Boonurai, owner of Sunset Thai, two staff members were checking ID's of those entering the restaurant and marking the hands to differentiate between those over 21 and those under 21.

"People over 21 got an even number and people under 21 got an odd number," Boonurai said.

Out of the approximately 80 people at Sunset Thai on Saturday night, about 16 were marked as underage, Boonurai said. He said they only let in a certain number of guests that are under 21.

He said the restaurant frequently double checks ID's against Facebook profiles of those who had RSVP'd on the Facebook event to make sure the birthdays match.

Boonurai also said there were three bouncers around the bar area whom he told to specifically watch those marked as being underage.

"We have never had a problem with underage drinking here," he said.

He said he doesn't remember if Loney

ASSAULT, page 2 ▶



A customer walks into the Pizza Hut on Powhatan Street, which the UMW Foundation recently bought along with two adjacent houses and the Park & Shop Plaza.

Desk Aide Only Job Eliminated

By BRYNN BOYER and
SARAH SANDERS
Staff Writer

Since the beginning of the semester, desks at the entrance of freshmen residence halls have been left unattended due to the elimination of the desk aide program last December.

Residence Life recommended the program be cut and the Board of Visitors approved the decision at its meeting on Nov. 20.

The program, which existed in the five freshmen dorms, will leave over 25 students searching for a new form of campus employment this semester.

Jenny Davenport, a junior, was a desk aide in Jefferson Hall. She said she found out that her position was being eliminated over Thanksgiving Break.

"Everyone was annoyed," Davenport said. "I know some people were really upset about it."

Despite this recent elimination, staff in the financial aid department have assured students that there are currently no plans to further cut back on student employment.

"I have not been informed of any cuts, but there definitely aren't going to be any increases in the budget either,"

Angie Pitzer, campus employment supervisor, said.

Cutting the desk aide program will save the university around \$30,000 annually, Residence Life Director Chris Porter said.

"Everybody across the institution had to make cuts," Porter said in early December. "None of these are easy decisions."

According to Porter, the desk aide program was much larger in the past, with desk aides in upper-classmen dorms as well as freshmen dorms.

As recently as three years ago, freshmen residents had to take turns acting as desk aides in their residence halls.

"The desk aide program, frankly,

was already in the midst of being phased out," Porter said. "It was time. It just happened to coincide with budget cuts."

Davenport, who does not have a job this semester, said she wishes she had found out about the changes sooner.

"I was a little bit annoyed that they waited that long to tell us," she said. "At that point I thought it was too late to find another job."

Although desk aide positions will no longer be in existence, honor sign-in for visitors will be in effect in all residential buildings.

Everyone was annoyed.
I know some people
were really upset.

—Jenny Davenport

Downtown Restaurants Adjust to Smoking Ban

By HANNAH MILLER
Staff Writer

On Caroline Street in downtown Fredericksburg, cigarettes line the curb and cover the dirt below the planted trees along the sidewalk. The indoor smoking ban in bars and restaurants has been in effect in Virginia for almost two months, drawing smokers outside to light up.

Despite the change, some restaurants and bars downtown have not seen much of a difference since the ban took effect on Dec. 1.

"[We have] not noticed any change in business, [and] no differences in sales," Capital Ale House General Manager Kevin Abley said.

According to Abley, the only notable change since the ban has been an increase in traffic of people going in and out to smoke.

Since Capital Ale House opened in November 2008, its policy has always been no smoking until 9 p.m., according to Abley.

"With the ban, there is now no smoking at all," Abley said. According to Abley, the only vocal people about the ban have been the smokers.

According to the Virginia Department of Health website, environmental health inspectors from the local health department enforce the ban and determine compliance during

BAN, page 9 ▶



Customers smoking outside Sammy T's. The restaurant has not obtained its smoking permit.



By BRYNN BOYER
Staff Writer

Jan. 19- A Fredericksburg resident called to report a possible "peeping Tom" near Russell Hall. UMW police responded two minutes after the call but found no suspicious activity. However, police did find a faulty lock on one window and secured the window until UMW Facilities could come the next morning to make a permanent repair.

Jan. 21- Police received a report of damage to Virginia Hall due to skateboarders who wore down the edges of the stairs and railings. UMW police responded but did not locate any skateboarders.

Jan. 21- A student contacted UMW police about possible vandalism to the student's car, which was parked in the lower level of the parking deck. The student believed the tire of the car was intentionally slashed. A report was filed.

Jan. 21- A student member of the Eagle Patrol filed a report of UMW students shouting obscenities from the balcony of building two of the UMW Apartments. Police responded and spoke with the students involved. After police warned them, the students agreed to comply with the law.

Jan. 21- UMW police arrested a student at the Bell Tower for being drunk in public.

Jan. 22- UMW police responded to a call for assistance from Residence Life involving the suspicion of marijuana use in Bushnell Hall. Police escorted two non-students to a waiting cab. Residence Life referred one student to the administration.

Jan. 22- A student at the UMW Apartments called in a noise complaint regarding a party in the apartment upstairs. UMW police responded and warned the students at the party of the complaint.

Jan. 25- A UMW student came to the Public Safety office to file a complaint against UMW police officers for not writing enough parking tickets. The student was referred to the Assistant Vice President for Public Safety.

From Jan. 19 to Jan. 25, police provided 11 safety escorts to those who requested them.

Also, from Jan. 19 to Jan. 25, UMW police issued five warnings to student drivers for failing to obey traffic signs and traffic signals. Police have noticed the violations at the intersection of College Avenue and Brent Street, College Avenue and William Street as well as on Double Drive. Police want to remind students to observe all traffic signals and signs to avoid possible traffic tickets and to keep everyone safe.

Police want to remind students to observe the parking regulations posted by the City of Fredericksburg. Over a three-day period last week, Fredericksburg police called in affiliation checks for vehicles parked along local streets. Out of 22 vehicles checked, eight belonged to UMW commuting students and six belonged to UMW residential students. UMW police have no jurisdiction over Fredericksburg tickets and failing to pay or challenge the tickets will result in court action by the City.

This information was compiled with help from
Assistant Vice President for Public Safety and Community Service Susan Knick.

UMW Retention Better Than Most

By BULLET STAFF
Staff Writers

It might seem like many freshmen leave the University of Mary Washington after their first year, but statistics show that UMW's retention rate is above average.

Research presented by Eastern Connecticut State University, a league of liberal arts colleges known as COPLAC, reports a national average retention rate of 77 percent. The freshman retention rate at UMW last year was 83 percent, according to the Office of Institutional Research and Reporting.

Mathew Wilkerson, director of Institutional Research at UMW, said that "83 percent is a good level of retention."

UMW's rates fare well against similar Virginia public colleges like Longwood University and Christopher Newport University who report retention rates of 77.2 percent and 80.0 percent as of fall 2008, according to the respective universities.

Despite the strong showing, freshman retention rates have been higher in the past. Retention fell to the current 83 percent from 87 percent in 2006.

Wilkerson cited the recession for the drop.

"The dip in persistence for the past two years certainly appears to be a direct reflection of the downturn in the state and national economy," Wilkerson said.

The lack of expendable wealth has led students to enroll in two-year colleges, such as Germanna Community College, or pursue careers in the available job market.

Recent nationwide drops in retention also have been attributed to the economic downturn. An ACT press release, citing the recession, shows that in 2008, a total of 66 percent of students in the United States returned to college for their sophomore year, the lowest percentage since 1989.

A poll by the College Board and Art and Science Group showed that one in six students changed their college plans as a result of the recession.

According to the "The Art of Student Retention," a handbook for college administrators created by the Educational Policy Institute, major factors that affect retention rates include the selectivity of the school, diversity, congruence of the school's mission with the goals of the students and the availability of financial aid.

When asked what steps UMW is taking to combat the drop in retention, Wilkerson said, "The University has focused more efforts on providing scholarships and financial aid to its students and will continue to seek new funding streams to assist students."

Wilkerson cited that the 2000-2009 UMW Centennial Campaign successfully increased financial support for UMW students. As a result, nearly 1,400 financial aid awards were endowed.

Still, it remains a common perception around campus that an unusually large number of students transfer out of UMW after their freshman year.

Emily Montgomery, a freshman at UMW, has considered transferring to the College of William and Mary.

"I love it here [at UMW] but I've considered transferring for a couple of reasons. The first is that I'd like to go to

Former White Supremacist Speaker at MLK Jr. Presentation

By WILL LYNCH
Staff Writer

"Not all racists are rednecks who drive pick-up trucks and carry baseball bats."

This was the repeated message of Tom "TJ" Leyden, the keynote speaker for the James Farmer Multicultural Center's Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration. Leyden visited UMW to present his "Turning Away From Hate" presentation in Dodd Auditorium on Jan. 20.

Leyden is a self-proclaimed former skinhead. He belonged to numerous white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups that surrounded the punk-rock scene where he grew up in southern California.

Over the years, he climbed his way up the group ladder and became one of the top recruiters and organizers for the Hammerskin Nation, "the most violent and best organized neo-Nazi group in the world," according to Leyden.

After 15 years, he held his faith in the skinhead movement to the fire. Leyden now travels the country speaking against hate and racism with StrHATE Talk, an organization he formed with his wife, Julie Leyden, in 2000. He also recently wrote a book called "Skinhead Confessions, From Hate to Hope."

Presidents of various multicultural student organizations on campus chose Leyden as the speaker. The students worked in collaboration with the James Farmer Multicultural Center to form the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee.

Their choice of speaker was then approved by Cedric Rucker, dean of student life, and Courtney Chapman, acting director of multicultural affairs.

"The students chose T.J. because they felt that he brought a new perspective to the Dr. King celebration," Chapman said. "He demonstrated the 'radical social change' that Dr. King called the nation to. The students were very interested in hearing this story of turning away from hate. They felt that it also brought in the hope that Dr. King fought with, that everyone can change for the better."

"I think that in order to appreciate and to learn more about the importance of diversity and inclusion, we should continue to have events and keynote speakers that raise awareness to the issues we continue to face in our society," Hasina Akhter, a senior, said. "By working together and educating ourselves we can combat them."

While some were supportive of Leyden's visit during Martin Luther King Jr. Week, some strongly opposed the choice of speaker.

Andrew Salatino, a freshman, had an unfavorable view of Leyden's presentation.

"It was the opposite of what the University wanted," Salatino said. "I think he was too proud of his actions to feel remorse for them. It seemed more like promotion for his book."

The presentation also raised sensitive issues, with students and faculty alike.

"The presentation was replete with violent imagery," Dr. John L. Johnson, an adjunct instructor in the department of classics, philosophy, and religion, said. "It had little or nothing to do with the ideals, work, or life of Martin Luther King, Jr., but he showed plenty examples of how to get in touch with the skinheads through music and websites."

In addition to the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, the presentation was part of an on-going Cultural Awareness Series presented by the James Farmer Multicultural Center.

“Not all racists are rednecks who drive pick-up trucks and carry baseball bats

—T.J. Leyden

Man Jailed in Incident

◀ ASSAULT, page 1

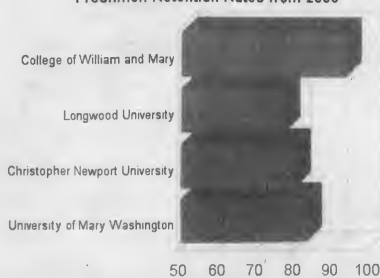
was marked as being over 21 or under 21. "Kids probably drank before they got here," he said. "We won't let anyone in who is intoxicated."

Boonurai acknowledges, however, that someone could have briefly acted sober long enough to fool a bouncer.

"You can hold it in for 15 seconds I guess," he said.

In response to what happened on Saturday, Boonurai said he may decide to make college nights at Sunset Thai exclusively for those over 21.

Freshmen Retention Rates from 2008



Bullet Staff/Bullet

Corrections:

Former Gov. Tim Kaine appointed Mary Jones Berry to the Board of Visitors. In "BOV's Betty Foster Passes Away at 62" in the Jan. 21 issue of the *Bullet*, it was reported that Gov. Bob McDonnell made the appointment.

Viewpoints

Students Should Not Have to Pay For Paper Content

The *New York Times* recently announced that effective January 2011, their online content will no longer be available, free of charge, to the reading public. For those of us Ramen-budgeted college students who prefer their journalism to come with a side of serious professionalism, this is catastrophic news.

Whatever works for the *New York Times*—the bastion of professional journalism—is likely to become the industry standard. If the *Times* makes this model profitable, it's not a stretch to imagine most other online institutions following suit to the point where, by the time you graduate, jobless and broke, the only place left to get free news might be the *Bullet*.

And as earth-shattering and hard-hitting as the *Bullet's* coverage of UMW might be, it's not enough to make you a more informed citizen of the "real world."

One of the greatest advantages of the most recent hyper-connected decade has been the abundance of quality journalism available for free at our fingertips. We may be spoiled consumers, but at least we're informed.

However, once newspapers start requiring our spoiled demographic to pony up a few bucks to access their online content, we as students are going to have to take a serious look at how much we value high-quality professional journalism.

We don't think twice about paying for subscriptions to Netflix or girly magazines, but when we're asked to put a price on the latest in-depth investigative report on the health care bill—well, we can always just click the next link on Google.

And that will become the problem.

Instead of getting the news from a reputable publication, we'll get it reshaped by the faceless and wholly unaccountable blogosphere. Or, even worse, what's to stop a resourceful news pirate from paying for the content, reposting it elsewhere, and reaping the ad revenue from cash-strapped consumers in search of free content?

If record companies have learned anything over the course of their decade-long demise, it's that if there's a demand for free product, someone is going to meet that demand, regardless of the legal consequences. It wasn't

until Apple developed an innovative method for reaching consumers via iTunes that record companies could finally exhale from the pressure of peer-to-peer file sharing networks.

No one's disputing that the business side of the journalism industry is in serious need of an overhaul, but we remain skeptical that the hierarchical payment model that the *Times* is proposing—basically, the more you pay per year, the more you get—is the answer.

Granted, the *Wall Street Journal* has remained profitable with a similar model, but its primary demographic is consumers with money who need the *Journal's* content to help them make more money.

Outsell, a research group, reported last week that only 6 percent of American online readers would be willing to pay for online journalism. Here at the *Bullet*, we're willing to bet our combined EagleOne balance of \$8 that most college students account for none of that percentage.

And until someone proposes a model that makes sense, it's likely to stay that way.



photo courtesy of thedragonstales.blogspot.com

Pick Majors Based on Your Interests, Not On Job Opportunities

"Oh...that's...nice." "Are you planning on teaching?" and my personal favorite, "What are you going to do with THAT?" Though I have tremendous respect for anyone who wants to become a teacher, people make it seem as though it's my only option once I graduate.

I guess my major, especially with my Creative Writing concentration, can be commonly classified as a "bullshit major." I avoided becoming an English major until my junior year due to this preconceived notion.

Other majors that may fall under this category include, but are not limited to, Classics, Religion, Anthropology, Art and Theatre. We've all seen the Facebook groups, such as "I Picked a Major I Like and One Day I Am Going to Live in a Box," where those of us with the bullshit majors unite.

Our choice of study doesn't sound all too practical, but I'll let you in on a little secret: there really isn't a practical major.

Sure, a business degree sounds like it can translate into a better job than an English major, but to be honest, most people don't end up having a career that directly has to do with what they studied in college. Just looking at profiles of friends who have graduated on Facebook will prove it.

Now, it sounds like I'm basically saying you're not going to use your major in the real world unless you become a professor or something directly related to your field. You may be working for a

consulting firm when you were a Sociology major in college, but it doesn't mean you're never going to use what you've learned here.

Case in point: though Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, didn't graduate from college, he did take some classes. He happened to sit in on a Calligraphy class, which doesn't sound like a big deal, right? Well, Jobs took what he learned in that class and applied it to his computers, which is why I have the option of typing this article in a wide variety of fonts.

I don't plan on going to get an MFA in Creative Writing when I graduate, but the writing skills I've acquired from my various classes will come in handy in the real world. You'd be surprised how many people can't write for the life of them, so a strong writing background is something many places look for when interviewing future employees.

That Sociology major you might be hesitating to take on because it doesn't sound practical is actually something that could be used in a career in journalism, business or politics, among many fields.

My advice: major in whatever you like. You'll be passionate about what you're studying, and when grad schools and employers see and hear that passion, they'll want to accept it or offer it a job. With this economy, I may be very well living in a box next year, but it won't be because of my major.

SINGLE
WHITE
UNEMPLOYED
FEMALE



By Emilie Begin

"God, how I hate the 20th century."



Do you? Send us your opinions at
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Letter and Editorial Policy

The *Bullet* is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them.

Letters should be submitted the Monday before publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words.

We will not publish anonymous submissions. Letters must include a phone number and address for purposes of verification. They can be mailed to the *Bullet* at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seacobeck Hall or sent to our e-mail at umwbulet@gmail.com.

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. Contact the *Bullet* at 540-654-1133.

Viewpoints

Getting Connected to Campus Life Possible in Class

You sit there in your corner in class and wonder how in the world all these people around you seem to be such great friends. While they chatter away before the professor walks in, you ask yourself what is so wrong with you that nobody has made any effort whatsoever to connect with you. We'll tell you why: because you aren't making an effort to connect with them.

Some people are already the type who usually don't engage with other students in classes—we included—but added to that is the fact that it seems a lot harder to get to know people in college classes than it was back in high school. In light of this, we're going to teach those of you having a little bit of trouble settling into your new classes how to branch out and make a name for yourself.

BAM: Change your seat up. You know how after the first class, people plop in their one definite place? You know you do it, too. I bet if you walked into your English class tomorrow and saw some kid was in "your" seat, you'd be practically beside yourself with anguish.

This can be a good thing, though. Exploring the room a bit will give you a better opportunity to connect with a wider variety of people. At worst, you'll just become known as the kid that takes everybody's seat. You can do the same thing at meal times.

KD: I agree with Bryant here, but if possible, try not to take someone's seat. There might be an empty seat somewhere that'll allow you to switch things up. Anyway, if you happen to like the person next to you, go ahead and talk about setting up study times and opportunities where you can meet up after class. Next thing you know, you've got a

new friend.

BAM: Another good idea is to actually talk in class. I make the mistake of remaining silent far too often, and when you sit there like a bump on a log, people are either going to find you smug or stupid. Speaking up will make your voice heard and your name familiar. People will figure out who you are from there. Otherwise you'll just blend into the background of the class, and no one will ever know you exist.

This is an especially big deal with lecture-hall style classes, when you're more or less a number. You want the professor to know who you are, especially in large group settings like that. And if you know the answer, say it! Don't let someone answer it for you. Take credit for what you know. Just please, for our sake, don't be obnoxious about it.

KD: I've always found it hard to talk in class because I'm afraid I'll be wrong and know only what I feel are the obvious points. Don't let that discourage you. Your point of view is still important. That insecurity is just a wall to conquer. Even

if you are wrong, at least you took the leap.

Also, there are probably one or two people that you have multiple classes with, or have had a few classes with in the past. Chances are, they recognize you, too. If you keep running

into them, they probably have the same major, and you might get a good study partner out of the deal. Plus, since they already share that same interest, they might have even more in common with you than you realize, and then you've got someone to hang out with outside of class!

BAM: I've found that you can create a sort of web among people that you share multiple classes with.

When you do make those connections, you end up having a nice comfort zone in each class, so you don't have to walk in there feeling like you're being stared down by everybody and their sister.

Also important: be brave. It just so happens that I randomly got paired up with Kat during a Spanish class we had together. Something just clicked and we got to talking, and the next thing I know, I was giving her my phone number. Crazy things

like that do sometimes pay off. You might get a lot more than just a good friend out of the deal. Maybe you find your best friend, or even the love of your life. I was lucky enough to find both.

KD: Compliments don't hurt either. They can be good icebreakers. Just don't be dishonest—keep them genuine. It's possible that what could otherwise be a "thanks" or a smile might turn into a full blown conversation. They might talk about where they got their shoes, which might just happen to be your favorite place to shop, and so on.

Another thing to keep in mind is to never judge a book by its cover. Maybe that "weird" girl in the back of Statistics is just having a bad day. She might turn out to be a great friend. The really cute guy up front might have zero self-confidence, and isn't half as arrogant as you make him out to be. Don't be afraid to approach people outside of your comfort zone.

Joining clubs and attending events and parties aren't the only ways to meet people on campus. You can meet people in class, where you spend a lot of your time, and forge long-lasting connections that can be very beneficial. Sometimes the best friend you'll ever have is sitting right next to you, simply by chance.

Getting connected isn't anywhere near as hard as it seems; you just have to meet the world halfway. After all, it put you here amid thousands of interesting people from all over the place. It's up to you to plug in.

Boy Meets Girl



By Bryant Matera and Kat Dickinson

According to Amanda... A Coffee User Confesses: How One Girl and One Drink Met

BY AMANDA BOCCUTI

I'm a recreational coffee user. In fact, I pride myself in using only when I *really* need it, like the morning after a night spent studying into the wee hours of the morning.

Though I like to think I'm not attached to it, some of the paraphernalia I've acquired says otherwise: a stoic stainless steel travel mug sits on my desk, patiently waiting to be filled with coffee.

I never thought I would define myself as a coffee drinker. I was always the type that scoffed at people who swore by coffee to get them through the day. For years, it was a source of pride. Not drinking coffee was a testament to my own personal strength.

Then sophomore year happened. My habit started off innocently enough. After spending most of the night working on a lab report and a day of classes to go, a cup of coffee seemed harmless. Unfortunately, I didn't just have a cup. I had multiple cups, on an empty stomach. I made the rookie mistake of being so enthralled by the spike one had given me, that I had another—and then another. By my sixth cup of coffee in a four-hour time period, I was beyond caffeinated.

For the next few hours, I was on top of a very jittery world. I marveled over how I had gone for so long without coffee. All of those sleepy mornings trudging to an 8 a.m. class or late nights memorizing Latin names for plants were missed opportunities.

My euphoria was short lived, though. At 7 p.m. that day, I crashed. Feeling lethargic and nauseated, I crawled into bed. I vaguely remember my



photo courtesy of reallynatural.com

roommate nudging me to make sure I was okay. Each time, I sat up groggily and cursed coffee, swearing it off for life. When I finally awoke hours later, she looked at me and said, "Maybe coffee just isn't for you." She had a point.

I realized the next day exactly why people continue to drink it: hellish caffeine headaches. Harkening back to my days of anti-coffee self-righteousness, I decided to go it cold turkey. The rest of my day was spent with a dull pain jabbing

at my temples.

Despite the epic fail that was my first experience with coffee, though, I still drink it. I've found it's difficult to escape the seductive scent of coffee when the coffee's spent more time brewing in the morning than I did sleeping the night before. It's a dark, roasted road to coffee addiction.

Online Comments

Six Responses to Last Week's Article "In Housing Lottery, GPA Now a Factor"

Lauren Orsini on January 20 at 11:16 p.m.

I think if GPA becomes a factor in housing, some students will be discriminated against. Some students have learning disabilities that prevent them from doing as well in school, even when they work hard. I know the school is trying to reward students who work the hardest, but sometimes GPA isn't the best reflection of that.

Heather Greider on January 21 at 1:57 a.m.

A GPA doesn't reflect a student's work effort. So, if a student has a 3.0 and another student has a 3.5, that 3.0 student must be lazy or something. No, what if he or she is taking classes for Across the Curriculum requirements and there are subjects he or she struggles in? Can't be great at everything. And, as mentioned by Lauren Orsini in the comment above, what about students with disabilities? Guess they don't deserve their choice of housing. If I'm paying just as much money to be at this institution as any other student, then I should get just as much right to my choice of housing as everyone else does. Keep it as it was before. And, if you want to speed it up, have it take place on more days and get more help.

John Bowers on January 21 at 11:22 a.m.

As an alumnus from the Class of 2009, I think some of these changes are way overdue. Rewarding students for quickly completing their contracts and moving to a personal time slot system seem to be great ideas.

I'm not as sold on the move to reward students for having a higher GPA. Sure, students that work harder should get better housing, but having a high GPA doesn't equate to the level of effort, nor does it represent all the non-academic efforts of a student. Also GPAs seem to have a correlation to a student's major, with some majors having a higher average GPA than others. This is casual empiricism, but the possibility still exists that some majors will be rewarded with better housing on average than other majors. I don't know if I approve of a system that creates an environmental incentive for selecting certain majors.

Mark Placios on January 21 at 7:49 p.m.

I think GPA being a factor in housing selection is unfair due to GPA differences between majors. Science majors typically have lower GPAs, but that has nothing to do with how hard they work.

Jon Williams on January 23 at 8:12 p.m.

I think the comment by Lauren concerning disabled students is a good one. I don't think they've really thought of that, and it should be looked at by Res-Life. I might be biased because I've worked my butt off to keep a high GPA as a chemistry major, but I like this idea for Eagle Village. The reason I like this is because currently this school rewards those with very high GPAs with... doodle-squat. Taking other people's considerations into account, though, I think an even better idea or compromise would be to turn the selection for Eagle Village into an application process based on GPA, extracurricular activity and community service. I think that would help diffuse the science major versus non-science major fear somewhat, while rewarding students who have achieved things outside of academia as well. UVA uses a similar system to choose which seniors get to live on the Jefferson lawn.

Kelsey Voss on January 24 at 8:32 p.m.

Yikes. I have a friend who is the same year as me, who is taking a beginning language class, two English classes and a biology class for non-science majors. I, however, am taking organic chemistry, genetics and ecology. Last semester I had a writing-intensive cell biology class. I worked probably three times harder than she did, but I still didn't have a great GPA. I wish the housing system knew that. Still, I think I support the idea anyway, because some people I know barely work a fraction as hard as I do, and their GPA definitely reflects that.

Could you be the Bulletin's next sex columnist?

Do you have interesting thoughts, ideas and experiences relating to sex? Are you willing to share them?

If so, contact umwbullet@gmail.com with a sample column. We'd love to hear from you!

Entertainment

'Holmes' A Fast-Paced Adventure

Downey and Law provide action and bromance

By **PAULINA KOSTUROS**
Staff Writer

In Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes," an action-packed interpretation of the classic character of the same name, audiences are treated to an array of conspiracies, fight scenes, explosions, a ginger-headed midget and spooky magic.

This chaotically entertaining take on the Arthur Conan Doyle novels forces Sherlock Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.) and Dr. John Watson (Jude Law) to investigate a series of bizarre murders perpetrated by the notorious Lord Blackwood, who has risen from the dead. As the crime-fighting duo attempts to catch the illusive Blackwood, Holmes' former lover (Rachel McAdams) enters the picture, working for a shady nemesis.

The on-screen

Holmes ditches all refinement and embodies the role of a quick-thinking daredevil. His superior critical thinking skills match his peak physical condition. In addition to solving baffling clues, Holmes engages in bad-boy fight scenes, often calculating the physical damage he will inflict on his victims in a matter of seconds.

Aside from Holmes' somewhat spastic personality, Holmes and Watson engage in an outrageously funny "bromance."

Holmes' hurtful comments to Watson's fiancée and his often crazy experiments make Holmes and Watson a match made in heaven. Their onscreen bickering successfully characterizes Watson as the sensibility behind Holmes' fast-paced demeanor.

While this humorous action film remains entertaining, please note that fans devoted to Doyle's novels may find Holmes a hyper, childish idiot on crack. They may categorize the plot line as juvenile and thoughtless. Con-

sider the script a humorously dark, modern take on the novels.

This movie makes the novels more appealing to a younger generation who may not be familiar with the usual sophisticated version of Holmes. Nevertheless, all audiences should keep an open mind and spend a dollar at Cheap Seats!



photo courtesy of www.bloggloom.wordpress.com



photo courtesy of www.filmofilia.com

Film Club Screens 'Blue Velvet'

By **MISSAK ARTINIAN**
Staff Writer

Sometimes a single scene can encapsulate both the promise and downfall of a film. David Lynch's cult-classic, "Blue Velvet," has one such scene.

In this scene, the protagonist, Jeffrey Beaumont, tells his friend, Sandy Williams, "There are opportunities in life for gaining knowledge and experience. Sometimes, it's necessary to take a risk...I bet someone could learn a lot by getting into that woman's apartment." This quote represents the promise, the intrigue, and mystery of "Blue Velvet."

In response to Beaumont's idea, Williams says, "I can't figure out if you're a detective or a pervert." Beaumont comes back with, "well, that's for me to know and you to find out." This exchange represents the downfall.

The film has a strong opening. An old man is watering his front lawn in Lumberton, an idealized American suburb, when he suddenly experiences a stroke. We learn that the old man is

Beaumont's father, so Beaumont returns home from college to visit him.

Once home, Beaumont explores his home-

town and stumbles across a human ear lying in a grass field, covered in larva and dry blood. Beaumont decides to take matters in his own hands with the aid of Williams. The investigation leads them to Dorothy Vallens, a nightclub singer whose husband and child have been kidnapped.

In a scene that could have been directed by Alfred Hitchcock him-

self, Beaumont breaks into Vallens' apartment, hides in the closet and witnesses the sadomasochistic brutality of Frank Booth, a character

Freudians will no doubt psychoanalyze and come up with conclusions to prove the validity of the Oedipal Complex.

Booth's shocking, often disgusting behavior is the heart of "Blue Velvet's" promise, intrigue and mystery. Isabella Rossellini's stunning performance as Vallens is also exceptional. But for a film that with such a serious, heavy plot, it's baffling that the dialogue isn't up to the same standard.

How are we expected to grant this film the respect it deserves when its characters sound more at home in a bad adult sitcom and conversations are rarely deeper than expressing preferred brands of beer. The poor dialogue culminates with the line, "Don't toast to my health, toast to my f**k!"

If "Blue Velvet" is remembered for anything, it's for what it could (and should) have been. Instead, it's an ambitious attempt that could have been a masterpiece. Many critics still consider it to be a masterpiece, but for all the wrong reasons.



photo courtesy of www.misslapes.com

Kyle MacLachlan and Isabella Rossellini in "Blue Velvet"

Ozzy Returns in Summer 2010

Osbourne back on tour with new guitarist

By **LANDON JAMES**
Staff Writer

The Prince of Pop may have left the building but the Prince of Darkness is still in.

Ozzy Osbourne has announced that Ozzfest, his annual summer music festival, will be returning in full force come the summer of 2010. Following Osbourne's "Black Rain" release in May 2007, Osbourne took a summer off from Ozzfest in 2009 to work on his next solo album. Originally entitled "Soul Sucka," Osbourne has recently reconsidered the title after disgruntled Internet fans expressed complete disapproval.

Osbourne's now-untitled album is set for release in July and will be his 10th solo album to date. More importantly, it will be the first time long-standing lead guitarist Zakk Wylde will not be featured as part of Osbourne's line up since joining the band in 1988. Instead, celebrated Grecian guitarist Kostas Karamitrodoudis, also known as Gus G., will take Wylde's place and attempt to carry on the guitarist legacy.

"No, I haven't fallen out with Zakk," explained Osbourne in a recent article in *Rolling Stone* magazine. "I mean, he doesn't need me anymore. I knew I had to get another guitar player for a while. I

just kept putting it off and putting it off."

However, Osbourne isn't putting off any of his work and is currently holding book signings

across the nation for his new autobiography, "I AM OZZY." However, unless you live in a major city, don't expect Osbourne to come stumbling

through your local Borders.

Osbourne won't keep his fans waiting until summer for nothing and promises that Ozzfest

will return stronger and better than in 2008. In addition, Osbourne plans on launching a monstrous tour following the July release of what hopefully will be a titled album at that point.

"After Ozzfest I'm doing the most extensive tour of my life. It'll be something like, 3,025 dates," Osbourne told *Rolling Stone*. But Osbourne wasn't finished there, expressing no intentions of retiring just yet.

"I'm sure at some time I'll be face down in a box with a pine door closing over me. In the meantime, this is what I do. Sometimes I'm OK, sometimes I have a good time, and sometimes my voice blows out, but I still have fun. It's not like a job," said Osbourne as only the Prince of Darkness could.

For Osbourne fans, begin preparing for what looks to be an Ozzy-filled summer.



photo courtesy of www.daylife.com

Ozzy Osbourne and ex-guitarist Zakk Wylde perform at the VHI Rock Honors in Las Vegas in 2007.

Entertainment

'Book of Eli' A Preachy Drag

By DAVID TINDELL
Staff Writer

In an era of apocalyptic fear, we are certainly in no shortage of end-of-the-world movies (think "2012," "I Am Legend," "Children of Men"). So, how does it all end? Well, after watching "Book of Eli," it must end one bad movie at a time.

On Jan. 15, Albert and Allen Hughes ("Menace II Society" and "From Hell") released what they were hoping would be their biggest blockbuster to date. Written by first-time screenwriter Gary Whitta, "Book of Eli" stars Gary Oldman ("Batman Begins"), Milla Kunis ("That 70's Show") and everyone's favorite actor, Denzel Washington.

The Hughes brothers place the audience in a not-too-distant future

where a religious war has caused world-wide destruction. There is no law, no society and cannibal road gangs run rampant. One man, Eli (Washington), has been given a mission from "a voice inside him" to take a book west to a worthy city in order to rebuild civilization.

Just from this brief synopsis, you can grasp the epic nature of "Book of Eli." However, while it is grand in scale, the movie lacks a certain depth in emotion. Even with the world in utter chaos, the movie still makes time for laughs. The humor helps pace the movie, but does undermine the plausibility of "Eli's" apocalyptic plight.

Watching Denzel Washington fight with a sword and bow is a welcome change from his usual gun slinging, but creates a certain silliness to "Eli's" violence that makes the movie hard to take seriously. For instance, the beginning scene shows Eli shooting a cat with a bow. I understand that Eli kills to survive, but the "eating cat" jokes throughout the movie were a bit absurd.

Religion is an interesting theme in "Eli" but is not implemented well. The religious overtones set "Eli" apart from other apocalypse movies, but go too far. Being forced to listen to Bible quote after Bible

quote is about as entertaining as a GOP rally. While I have no problem with a film using Bible quotes to enhance drama ("Pulp Fiction" executed this extremely well), the way "Eli" depicts the Christian book feels like Pat Robertson agenda.

The entire movie feels like Washington's attempt to be Will Smith and the Hughes brothers' attempt to be James Cameron. Neither Washington nor the Hughes brothers are known for blockbusters, so this kind of script seems out of place for both. That's not to say neither can reach blockbuster status; only that "Book of Eli" certainly does not achieve this goal.

Whether you are a fan of Denzel or the Hughes brothers, "Book of Eli" is a bummer.



image courtesy of www.apocalypticmovies.com

Improv Troupe to Perform Friday

By AARON RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

Mary Washington's one and only improv comedy troupe, The Undeniably Adjacent, will host their first show of the semester Friday in Combs 139. As always, the troupe will perform three 30-minute long-form comedy sets. Each set will start with a one-word suggestion from the audience and build from there.

"Beginning this Friday, every other Friday we'll do three shows a night for free based on an audience suggestion," troupe director senior Kyle Dratwa said.

Long-form improv comedy is a brand of unrehearsed sketch comedy that builds off an audience member's one-word suggestion. By the end of the show, the sketches usually morph into something entirely separate from the original starting point.

The troupe is using Friday's show to introduce its three newest members, freshmen Mattson Fields and Chelsea Bicus and junior Elsa Lee. The new members round out the nine-member cast.

"I guess the primary reason we pick cast members is there are certain things you can tell about someone early on," Dratwa, who has been a member of the troupe since his freshman year, said. "They're agreeable, not nervous under pressure and good at telling stories."

The troupe was founded in 2006 and has been performing regularly since its inception. Typically, The Undeniably Adjacent practice four hours a week and do an hour of warm-ups before each show.

"There's not really anything to rehearse," Dratwa said. "Either I will just select a word randomly or we just go into it, depending on what we're doing," Dratwa said.

Before each show, Dratwa said that the troupe eats dinner together and does their warm up.

The longest-standing member of the group, Dratwa said he is drawn back year after year by a love of performing and group camaraderie. "There's nothing quite like performing in front of an audience," he said. "You also meet a lot of good people doing it. We're all friends outside of the troupe."

**THE UNDENIABLY
ADJACENT**
UMW'S ONLY COMEDY IMPROV TROUPE



Bullet Points

**Thursday,
January 28**

• Comedian Dan Ahdoot visits the Underground at 8 p.m. See inset for details.

• Cheap Seats is showing "Law Abiding Citizens," starring Jamie Foxx and Gerard Butler. The movie begins at 7 p.m. in Lee 411.

• Orpheum Film Club is showing "Blue Velvet," a 1986 film by David Lynch at 9 p.m. in Combs 237. See a review of the movie on page 5.

**Friday,
January 29**

• Cheap Seats is showing "Law Abiding Citizen" at 7 p.m. and "Zombieland," starring Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg and Emma Stone, at 10 p.m. Both movies will be in Lee 411.

• The Undeniably Adjacent, UMW's own improv comedy troupe, is performing three shows in Combs 139. Shows are free and begin at 8:00, 8:45 and 9:30 p.m.

**Saturday,
January 30**

• Cheap Seats is showing "Zombieland" at 7 p.m. and "Law Abiding Citizen" at 10 p.m. in Lee 411.

*Comedian Dan Ahdoot performs
at the Underground tonight*

By THOMAS ELLA
Staff Writer

If you're a fan of the reality show "Last Comic Standing," you might be interested to know that former contestant Dan Ahdoot will be performing at The Underground tonight at 8:00 p.m. Ahdoot has been featured on Comedy Central's "Premium Blend" and has opened for popular comics like Dave Chappelle, Lewis Black, and Jay Mohr.

Ahdoot is an American-born, Iranian Jew and is known for his ability to riff Middle-Eastern stereotypes with observations, stories, and accents. He also covers topics like dating indecisive girls and uses his improv skills to keep his audience entertained.



photo courtesy of www.standupdan.com

**Sunday,
January 31**

• NFL Pro Bowl takes place between AFC and NCF All-Star teams. Live on ESPN.

**Monday,
February 1**

• Think you're the next Ken Jennings? Come to Trivia Night at the Underground to test your knowledge. The good times begin at 8 p.m.

**Tuesday,
February 2**

• Open mic night at the Underground with guest performer John Allred. Allred, a native of Salt Lake City, Utah, will be playing his own mix of acoustic and alternative pop. Allred is playing from 8:30 to 9:30, followed by open mic.

**Wednesday,
February 3**

• Bingo Night at the Underground at 8 p.m. Don't be a grandma! Come out to win prizes with your friends.

Send Bullet Points to d7gallagher@gmail.com

Features

Student Breaks Boundaries

Junior Pakistani-born Anum Shaikh, decided to put on a veil for the first time.

By ANUM SHAIKH
Guest Writer

For the past nine years, especially since college started, I have been figuratively treading the third space between Pakistan and America.

As a Muslim woman, I've been dealing with the decision of whether or

First Person

not to wear a veil and struggling to uphold my cultural values as a Pakistani national in the United States.

In an article from *The Journal of Intercultural Studies*, author Torika Bolatagici defines this 'third space' as a form of cultural hybridity via which new ideas enter, possibly weakening or challenging the dominant culture or idea.

My experiences parallel that concept of "cultural hybridity" as my Pakistani culture merges with the American culture.

While I'm familiar with the notion of staying chaste and modest, this concept seems archaic and foreign in today's Westernized world.

One of the most common ways to

acquire chastity is by wearing a veil, or *hijab*.

Due to my father's and Pakistan's moderate view of Islam, I didn't grow up wearing a *hijab*.

In Pakistan, I was constantly reminded of my faith, surrounded by people who shared my values and made me consciously aware of sexual and faith-related boundaries.

My faith was strengthened, as it was easier to turn myself away from the world's temptations.

Upon moving to the United States, it has become more difficult to be constantly conscious of these boundaries.

Often, I'm the only Muslim in my classes, surrounded by white Christians.

I was offered Honors Admission to UMW, but my admittance was questioned before enrolling because my immigration status was 'pending.'

All the papers were filed in 2001, but between the Immigration Nationalization Service rejecting the case due to lack of cooperation from my family's sponsor, losing documentation and filing the case again, my family's immigration case returned to the starting point.

I had no idea how I was going to be

admitted without my green card or U.S. citizenship.

After contacting a local congresswoman, making countless phone calls and numerous visits to the Admissions Department and Financial Aid, I was finally accepted.

At UMW, my 'third space' has amplified my concerns on whether or not to wear a veil.

The Holy Qur'an promotes covering a woman's body to distinguish the spheres of interaction between men and women. Wearing the veil directs attention away from me and easily indicates my lack of interest in dating.

It indirectly reveals that I am a Muslim and hold conservative values, distinguishing me from others in settings where my faith is challenged.

Last year, after being convinced by a friend, I decided to give the veil a chance.

My cover-story was that I would wear it for Ramadan, a month of fasting and more prayer.

Since I didn't know whether I would wear the veil after Ramadan, I didn't want to bind myself to an invisible contract saying I had adapted a new lifestyle.

See STUDENT, page 8 >



Courtesy of Anum Shaikh

UMW junior Anum Shaikh (right) hangs out with her cousin while wearing her newfound veil



Courtesy of umw.edu

Renowned poet Nikki Giovanni spoke at UMW on Jan. 22

Poet Nikki Giovanni—A Civil Rights Tribute

By BRITTANY NASSEF
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, UMW welcomed renowned, award-winning poet, orator, and award winner, Nikki Giovanni, in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Krystal Jackson, a senior, who had the privilege of introducing Giovanni for her tribute speech said that Giovanni was not only "One of the world's greatest social civil rights leaders," but that she also helped start a "revolution that forged a distinguished pathway," for the civil rights movement.

"Nikki Giovanni is perhaps one of the few people I know in my life that can stand up in front of an entire audience and simply captivate every single person and make it seem effortless," junior Charles Reed, Jr. said.

Giovanni was born in Knoxville, Tennessee and attended Fisk University and the University of Pennsylvania at Columbia. She graduated from both with honors. Giovanni currently teaches at Virginia Tech,

where she is a University Distinguished Professor of English.

In the past three decades, Giovanni has written over 30 books, including an autobiography "Gemini." She has been awarded several prestigious awards including Woman of the Year by *Mademoiselle Magazine*, *The Ladies Home Journal*, and *Ebony Magazine*. She is also the first person to ever receive the Rosa L. Parks Woman of Courage award.

Giovanni's visit to UMW is just one of many other colleges and institutions she will be visiting in the coming weeks.

"Embracing diversity is the only way to become the individual we desire to be," Giovanni said.

"Behind every great man is a great woman," Giovanni said. "Behind King were three great women—his mother, Alberta Williams, his wife, Coretta Scott, and Rosa L. Parks."

Although she was here to commemorate the birthday of King, Giovanni also devoted time to Rosa Parks.

Giovanni told Parks' story and explained

how such a simple action, like that of Parks remaining in her seat located in the neutral section, led to the civil rights movement.

"I'm 66," Giovanni said. "I grew up in the age of segregation."

Giovanni said that Parks knew as well as anyone that the laws of segregation were to be followed and she had no intention to break those laws. However, James Tate and the police had a different view and arrested Parks for maintaining her seat in the neutral section.

The outrage sparked by this event led to the rising up of other members in the community across the nation. Many people joined in the civil rights movement to make equality a possibility today.

The stories told in the tribute speech were stories of struggle and stories of success.

Not only did King, Parks, and Giovanni stand up for the rights of racial equality, but also for gender equality.

Dining on a Dime

"Spaghetti Dinner for Four"

By Heather Brady

Ingredients:

- 1 box of thin spaghetti noodles
- 2 jars of canned spaghetti sauce (Bertolli's Olive Oil and Garlic works well)
- 1 pound ground beef or turkey
- 1 package fresh basil, crushed and cut into tiny pieces
- Italian spices/seasoning

Optional side salad:

- 2 bags of romaine lettuce
- 1 apple, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1/2 bag shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 bottle raspberry vinaigrette
- *Toss in a large bowl and serve

Directions:

1. Put noodles in pot half-filled with water and set on stove. Cook on high until the water boils, then cook for 8-10 minutes on medium heat, stirring occasionally. Strain water from noodles.
2. Put sauce in pan on stove and cook on stove on medium-high heat until sauce bubbles. Stir often to ensure even heating. Once it begins bubbling, cook for 2 more minutes, then remove from stove top. Sprinkle in fresh basil and Italian seasoning to taste.



Photo by Heather Brady

3. Put ground beef in skillet and set on stove. Cook on high heat until the meat turns completely brown inside and out while constantly breaking up the meat and stirring it so that it is cooked thoroughly. When it is completely brown, combine with the sauce and pour over the noodles to taste.

Features

Geography Department Brings Home Honors From Kentucky

By SARAH DENBY
Staff Writer

Nutmeg. At the World Geography Bowl Competition, it was the answer in which Team Virginia earned first honors.

On Nov. 29, 2009, the southeast division of the Association of American Geographers Conference World Geography Bowl Competition was held in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The teams at the conference are comprised of students from all over each state, having at least one female, one male, one undergraduate student, and one graduate student.

This year, eight states from the southeast division of the United States competed against each other, such as Alabama and Florida. Seniors Allyson Thompson, Anya Bogdanow, Brandon Eads, junior Matthew Holden, freshman Joseph Winter, and a Virginia Tech graduate student represented team Virginia.

The competition lasts for only one day, with each state competing in a round robin tournament in the afternoon. The two teams with the highest scores would then go onto a competition in the evening, which lasts about 30 to 40 minutes.

The final competition, which pitted Team Virginia against Team Florida, consisted of 10 toss-up questions and two team questions.

Toss-up questions are questions



(Left) The students of Team Virginia holding their trophy. (Right) Geography Professor Dawn Bowen



Courtesy of umw.edu

that each team can call out if they know the answer.

The two team questions were those that one team could answer but the opposing team could as well for points, in case the other team provided an incorrect answer.

This year, Team Virginia scored better in the bowl than last year. Brandon Eads, who competed last year, reflected on this. "Understanding how it works is a big deal. So this year it was

a lot easier," Eads said.

Eads reflected on how he and his fellow teammates prepared for the competition.

"We had practice or meetings every Sunday [for two hours] starting three to four weeks into school, leading up to the conference," he said.

The answer to the final question, nutmeg, was given by Matthew Holden, which allowed the team to earn first honors.

For the past three years, Holden has been the leading undergraduate scorer at the competition and will be attending a National Conference held in Washington D.C. in April.

This year, according to a press release from the university on Dec. 8, 2009, Joseph Winter ranked in eighth for undergraduate scoring.

Associate Professor of Geography, Dawn Bowen commented on the other teams at the competition, saying,

and the promotion of historic preservation." Bowen is the first woman to receive the award.

"It was pretty amazing," Bowen said.

Bowen has been involved with the Society since 1990. The award was based on her published research and teaching of material culture.

"there were some really good teams. Team Virginia was competitive all the way through."

Bowen recently received The Henry H. Douglas Distinguished Service Award by the Pioneer American Society: Association for the Preservation of Artifacts and Landscapes at a conference in West Virginia on October 31st, 2009.

According to the press release from the University on December 8th, 2009, the award is given to one "who has made significant contributions in furthering societies goals through service, teaching, publications

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID....

By KAITLIN MAYHEW
Features Editor

As I enter the second semester of my junior year of college, I am beginning to realize I am somehow less excited about this semester.

The first week of classes came as any other, and as I went through my usual routine of classes I recognized a few things as different.

For one thing I did a lot less walking. Despite my now owning a car and living off campus, all my classes are in Combs. The freshman and sophomore years of running back and forth to Trinkle and Jepson have ended as my Spanish major reaches its junior year level.

In fact I almost feel like I don't see any other part of campus at all. If they only rented out rooms on the top floor of Combs, or even just let me pitch a tent, I think I could spend an entire semester never really needing to leave.

Except to eat, I suppose, which brings me to my next point. This semester I have also forgone a meal plan, using the money on groceries instead and just paying for the occasional meal on campus. The food at Seacobeck and The Eagle's Nest always seemed free to me in the past.

Granted, the hundreds of dollars

spent on meal plans each semester were not lost on me. It was just so much easier to spend money that was already spent.

Prices didn't really matter. The food was either a meal, or a over a meal, or less. Little did I know that a SoBe water at the Eagles Nest costs more than it does a little ways down campus walk at the bookstore, which makes no sense to me. Hasn't anyone ever comparison

shopped for SoBe waters on campus? I've also found it

pretty painful to shell out real money for an Eagle's Nest wrap or a plate of Seacobeck food.

And just a sidebar, you can't eat enough Seacobeck food for it to be worth \$9.50.

However, when I really gave it some thought I decided that it wasn't the absence

of a change of scenery, or even the realization that all food costs money, rather my school woes actually had to do with something shockingly, academic.

I've always been kind of an academic catalog freak. Even before I was accepted to college I'd search the university websites for their online course catalogs and read course descriptions all night.

When I got to college, this obsession only got worse as I made list after list of what I called "graduation plans" in which I would plan out every class I would take for all eight semesters. Every time I made one, something would end up differ-

ent, I'd change direction a little bit.

It was a hobby, a slightly obsessive one, but still a hobby. Now that I have reached my sixth semester at UMW, I no longer make graduation plans.

I have no need to. I only have one possible combination of classes to take for the rest of my college career. And as happy as I am to be near graduation, I miss my new-to-college academic fervor. I miss making my graduation plans.

I miss my idealistic view of the university with musty books, dark wood, and the smell of pencil shavings. In reality college today is a much less glamorous but highly efficient online community.

You can even buy some textbooks entirely on the computer.

I don't have any dark wood, or even real wood for that matter. I don't have any pencils that aren't mechanical, or even one musty book either.

Let's face it, they would never pass inspection at buyback. And in reality, I don't need them to have a real college experience. And as difficult as it may be, I also don't need my graduation plans.

I'm finally at the stage where I no longer need to plan; I just need to do. And I need to learn how to get excited about it



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/linnybunnypix/1189891134/sizes/l/>

Shaikh Tries Veil on For Size

◀ STUDENT, page 1

After 20 minutes of fitting the veil, it finally looked ready; however, I didn't feel ready. I was about to take a huge step into a world outside that may perceive me differently.

Walking to a fast-breaker hosted by the UMW Islamic Student Association, I could see people's eyes open wider than usual. Some had the courage to gape their mouths wide open. Many asked the reason behind this new transformation, so I told them: it was time for a change.

During the entire month, I sensed similar tension from others. Many American friends did not recognize me. A few were courageous enough to ask about my transformation.

I wondered if others felt a violation

of a code if they asked. My female friends asked me more about my religious practices and the significance of the veil. My male friends appeared more cautious of what they said around me; their body language seemed to put up a front against me.

I avoided Campus Walk crowds so I wouldn't have to face surprised stares from friends who hadn't seen me since the veil. It was better to not see friends who knew me well but didn't greet me because my long black hair wasn't flowing with the wind.

To free myself of this mental torture, the less-taken College Avenue route served my needs well. Whether imagination or reality, students always seemed to be staring at the back of my

"I avoided campus walk crowds so I wouldn't have to face surprised stares from friends..."

-Anum Shaikh

head. Despite the discomfort, I felt more empowered than usual because my veil instigated some curiosity and mysteriousness.

At my job in the Emergency Room, I received similar curiosity and a sense of reservation.

My coworkers asked me more about my background than ever before, giving me a chance to be myself. Ironically, through the veil, I had unmasked my true identity to people. People began to judge me based on my intelligence and speech, instead of my clothing. When the month came closer to an end, the difficult choice arose to continue or end wearing the veil.

Whether it was for the sake of normality or the depth of questions that came with the veil, my decision was to take it off. I still don't understand my thought process behind that decision and have questioned it many times since then. No rationality can be traced behind

my decision, besides just a sense of deviation from the Western concept of normality that I felt with the veil over my head.

It's not the presence or lack of a veil that brings discomfort. It's about the choices I have to make in my everyday life pertaining to the cultural and social differences.

To remain honest to myself, I hold my head high and take life's challenges head-on, with or without the 'third space.' I continue to live with this daily jihad, an Arabic term for an internal, spiritual struggle for one's disciplines.

My jihad involves staying true not only to my religion, but also to myself. Through my experiences, I learn more about myself and the society's influences on me and feel a stronger person today than I did two years ago.

Outside the Fence



By ANNE ELDER
Staff Writer

Body Found Confirmed to be Missing Student

Three months after the disappearance of Morgan D. Harrington, on Jan. 27 it was announced by Virginia State Police Superintendent W. Steven Flaherty that police are "fairly confident" that skeletal remains found on a farm in Albemarle County are those of the missing Virginia Tech student, and medical authorities confirmed it on Wednesday afternoon. Her case is now being investigated by police as a homicide, according to the *Daily Progress*. Farmer Dave Bass found the remains Tuesday morning while doing routine checks of his 750-acre cattle farm, according to Charlottesville newspaper the *Daily Progress*. Since her disappearance on Oct. 17 outside the John Paul Jones Arena at the University of Virginia, search teams have united to find the college student, with over 1,600 volunteers looking for her, as reported by the *Daily Progress*. According to the *Washington Post*, the last thing Harrington said to her mother as she left her house was "Two, four, one, Mama," meaning, "I love you too much, forever, one more time."

Toyota Halts Production of Eight Car Models

As a result of several fatal accidents caused by faulty accelerators, Toyota announced on Jan. 27 that they would be stopping the production of eight car models, according to the *Washington Post*. The *New York Times* said that the recalls would amount to approximately 4.8 million cars. These cars include the 2009-2010 RAV4, 2009-2010 Corolla, 2009-2010 Matrix, 2005-2010 Avalon, certain 2007-2010 Camry models, 2010 Highlander models except the hybrids, 2007-2010 Tundras, 2008-2010 Se-

quoias, according to a press release issued by Toyota. As reported by the *Washington Post*, Senior Analyst Michelle Krebs said that these eight models make up 65% of the Toyota brand. According to the *New York Times*, the recall is provoked by gas pedals "sticking", causing the vehicle to speed up unintentionally. Toyota hopes the temporary halt in production will assist in "helping ensure the safety of our customers and restoring confidence in Toyota."

Pandora's Box Opens on Hollywood

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, the sci-fi blockbuster "Avatar" surpassed the \$1.86 billion mark at the box office, outshining director James Cameron's previous chart-topper "Titanic," according to News.com. "Avatar" took home the Golden Globe for Best Drama, and it is expected that the runaway success will sweep the Academy Awards, according to the *LA Times*. However, while the box office numbers may top the 1998 blockbuster "Titanic," "Avatar" boasts approximately 56 million viewers, while "Titanic" reached nearly 128 million, according to the *Washington Post*. "It defies all superlatives," Chris Aronson, head of distribution for Fox, told the *Washington Post* after it topped the box office for the sixth consecutive week.

UMW's Continued Efforts for Haiti

The Office of Human Resources is accepting checks and money orders payable to "International Red Cross - Haiti" to the Office of Human Resources in Fairfax House. UMW employees can give to the Haiti Relief Fund by credit card via CVC pledge card (also at the Office of Human Resources).

OSACS is promoting an awareness and response day on February 4 titled "Change for Haiti." Wear red to show support for Haiti, donate blood at the American Red Cross Blood Drive from noon to 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall, or give a financial donation at collection points in the campus center. In addition, during the evening of the 4th, student volunteers will be going around to all the residence halls to collect spare change. All money raised will go to the American Red Cross for the Haiti Relief Fund.

Residence Life is sponsoring "Donate your jeans to 'Jeans for Teens.'" Drop off your jeans in any residence hall lobby or at the Information Desk by the Nest now through February 13 and the first 100,000 pairs donated will go to homeless teens in Haiti. Aeropostale has agreed to match the number of jeans going to Haiti, so with your help we can send 200,000 pairs of jeans down to Haiti.

All information courtesy of the Office of Student Activities and Community Service

Applies to Indoors-- Smokers Outside

◀ BAN, page 1

routine inspections.

Virginia bars and restaurants are required to post "no smoking" signs, remove all ashtrays and other smoking paraphernalia from all smoking prohibited areas of the restaurant and assess whether any separate smoking rooms comply with requirements of the law.

Along with separate smoking rooms and outdoor areas, private clubs defined as "exclusively for club purposes or events solely for recreational, fraternal, social, political and benevolent or athletic purposes" are exempt from the ban. The Virginia Department of Health Web site states.

The ban also applies to bingo halls, bowling alleys and skating rinks unless they cease to prepare and serve food, according to the Web site.

While a large cigarette urn stands outside the restaurant, there are still a good amount of cigarette butts the staff regularly sweeps up, he said.

As a business manager, Abley said he supports the smoking ban.

"Our staff was subject to cigarette smoke," he said. "[The change will be] good for the health of the staff."

Freshman Aissata Traory, a self-described "regular smoker" also supports the ban.

"I worked in a restaurant and people constantly complained about smoke from the bar," Traory said.

Sophomore Breon Campbell, a non-smoker, shared similar sentiments.

"I love the new law. I always got irritated when I would go into restaurants and smell smoke. I didn't want to smell smoke while eating food," Campbell said.

Sammy T's, another downtown restaurant, already had a separate room with its own entrance for smokers before the law took effect.

"The law was almost like it was written after us," Jimmy Crisp, the general manager at Sammy T's, said.

According to Crisp, Sammy T's has had a separate smoking room for about 20 years. Because of the already established smoking room, he said Sammy T's has picked up more smokers since the ban's enforcement.

However, Crisp said Sammy T's has to obtain a permit for their smoking room with the ban in effect.

"When the inspectors came, along with the permit, we had to add an attachment that draws fresh air into the smoking room," Crisp said.

According to Crisp, while the restaurant is in the process of getting a permit and the new attachment, smoking is currently banned in what will be the smoking room.

A few blocks away, Capital Ale House has no plans for a separate smoking room, according to Albey.

"This building is not conducive [for a separate smoking room] and we support the smoking ban and will stay non-smoking," he said.

Crisp predicted that a total ban on smoking in restaurants-without exceptions -will eventually be enforced.

"It's going overboard to ban smoking everywhere, especially outside," Crisp said.

Taory has many friends who do not smoke and thinks about their health when it comes to smoking.

"If I am with friends who don't smoke, I don't smoke around them," Traory said. "I try not to leave if we are in a restaurant. I usually will smoke when we are walking outside."

Taory said that non-smokers should not be subjected to the second-hand smoke of others, and she urged smokers to understand the health of those who do not smoke.

"I can see how other smokers could take it personally-that they can't smoke in bars or restaurants-but you have to think of other people's health," Traory said.

Foundation Takes Over Two Local Restaurants

◀ PROPERTIES, page 1

"The purchase was something we wanted to gain access to right off the bat," Rountree said.

The Pizza Hut was assessed at \$1,081,400, according to the Virginia Mass Appraisal Network and the house next door, which is estimated to be worth \$240,300, were originally owned by Hugh and Renna Cosner.

Renna Cosner worked as a librarian at Trinkle Hall for several years, when the academic building was a library. The Cosners will continue to operate the Pizza Hut through a newly formed lease with the UMW Foundation.

The other single family home on Thornton Street, which is estimated to be worth \$256,400, was owned by

the late Anne Hamer. Hamer worked for the music department at UMW for more than 40 years.

The houses on the property will be rented out to UMW faculty members.

"I guess it's ok, but I don't really see the advantage to it," senior Kevin Morris said.

Some students had mixed feelings about the purchases.

Andrew Lee, a commuter, said, "I'm not a huge fan of Pizza Hut, but I'm glad that the university community is expanding."

The shopping area will continue to operate as it is and will become part of the newly developed Eagle Village that is scheduled to open in August, according to Rountree.

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Many Freshmen Stay Second Year

◀ MOST, page 2

a school in a big city, and the second is that I would like a school with a bigger name," Montgomery said. "I know a good amount of freshmen who are considering transferring."

The idea that many freshmen will transfer is a theme common among the freshmen class.

Sophomore Joey Pugh said that UMW is "an over-glorified high school and daycare center" with too much drama. When asked about why he decided not to transfer, he said he would have but did not because of "too much red tape."

Freshman Anna Smith felt that a lack of course diversity makes UMW less appealing.

"I like William and Mary," Smith said. "I think it's a better school because of what it has to offer its students. I think it is a more liberal

school and it has more environmental studies programs. UMW does not offer a wide variety of those kinds of programs. William and Mary is just more diverse."

Cultural diversity also plays an important role in retaining students, because socially isolated students are more likely to leave the university.

Junior Ariana Johnson, a former member of the Student Transition Program, a program targeted toward culturally diverse students, said, "diversity will definitely help students feel more socially accepted. I think it's important to have a more culturally diverse campus because you get a better outlook on the rest of the world."

Joe Mollo, the director of student activities, said that "whenever you work to connect students to their environment, you help to make them feel part of the community, and they will want to stay."

Mollo said the Office of Student Activities and Community Service now advises 117 clubs, including 14 new clubs. Mollo said that these clubs, and the brand new renovations on the Underground, help keep students at UMW because there are so many events that stem from these organizations.

UMW's numerous clubs, award-winning professors, diversity initiatives and high number of graduates who go into the Peace Corps may be an indication of why certain students have decided to stay on-campus. For others, those factors may not be enough to keep them here past the first year.

-Laura Falcon, Ehren Guzman, Lufe Henderson and Thalia Halpert Rodis contributed to this report.



The UMW Foundation purchased Country Cookin' and the Park & Shop Plaza

Have any ideas, tips or suggestions? E-mail newsxcrew@gmail.com



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Sports

Swim Team Finishes Strong

By NICK NELSON
Staff Writer

Last weekend, Mary Washington's men's and women's swim teams achieved a resounding sweep of Gettysburg College, with the men tallying a score of 187-75 and the women winning 177-85.

Anchoring the men's victory were strong relay wins in the 200 and 400, where they finished in 1:38.54 and 3:17.84 respectively. There were strong performances by freshmen Nick Eckhoff and Peter Slattery, sophomores Austin Clark, Billy Norfolk and Brian O'Donnell and juniors Stephen Clendenin, Brad Dunn, who all achieved victories in their individual events as well.

The women's side performed with equal impressiveness, also winning the 200 and 400 relay events (in 1:52.40 and 3:43.76, respectively) and individual event wins by senior Nina Sawyer, juniors Sarah Crockett and Adriana Lesiuk, sophomores Megan DeSmit and Kelly Scott, as well as freshman Cameron Figuers.

Coach Matt Sellman spoke well of the performances of his swimmers in last Saturday's meet and was sure to mention the strong level of competition they faced.

"Gettysburg is always a tough team, and we knew they were going to be very amped for us," Sellman said. "It was one of our tighter meets of the season, and also a rivalry meet of sorts. It was

good to see us show up the way we did."

The 2009-2010 season has been a strong one for the Eagles, as their victories have all come as

sweeps against Washington & Lee, Gallaudet, Salisbury, Hood, St. Mary's, York, Marymount, and their most recent, Gettysburg. Their only loss of the

season came against a the College of William and Mary, a Division I school, back in October, proving a strong level of competition regardless of opponent.

Sellman confirmed the Eagles' love for the sport.

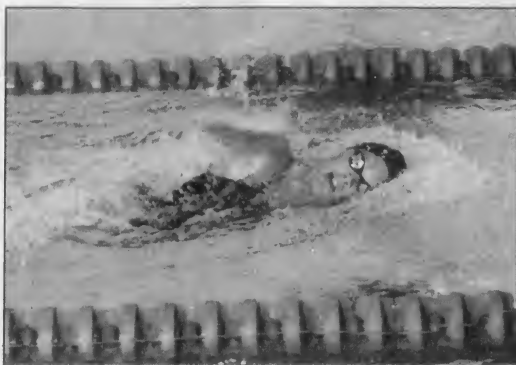
"We like to race and we love competition," Sellman said. "We get confident. We get aggressive, and that showed [on Saturday] with good swims across the board."

Sellman also mentioned how both teams were able to fight through the wear and tear of a season that begins in September and concludes in March, as well as the goals of his squads the rest of the way through the season.

"We practice harder as the season goes on, and sometimes, it's impossible to be your absolute best," Sellman said, "but we couldn't have had a better meet out there."

"We want to be [conference] champions," Sellman said. "That is the end-all-be-all of what we're doing out there. We want to walk away with the championship, make strong NCAA qualifying times and have a strong contingent at the NCAA tournament."

Both teams will have a chance to rest up and practice hard until the Capital Athletic Conference Championships, which take place Valentine's Day weekend in St. Mary's City, Maryland.



Courtesy of Clint Offen

The Mary Washington swim team continued their fantastic season as both the men and women won their final meet before the CAC Championships starting Feb. 12th.

Ten Realizations From NFL Season

By ZACH MORETTI
Staff Writer

With only one NFL game remaining in Miami in 11 days, it's time to look back at the 2009-2010 NFL season and see what we learned.

10. *The Dallas Cowboys can indeed still win a playoff game*

9. *JaMarcus Russell is really, really bad and he isn't getting any better:* The Raiders former No. 1 overall pick was unfathomably bad this season. He played in 12 games, started 9 of them, and in those games he completed under 49 percent of his passes for less than 1,300 passing yards and throwing only three TDs compared to 11 INTs. It's not the second coming of Christ, but the second coming of Ryan Leaf. And that is not a good thing for Raider Nation.

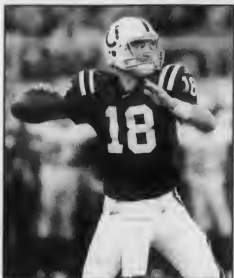
8. *The Cinderella streak lives on:* In each of the past two post seasons there has been one team that no one gives a chance to in the playoffs and then that team goes on to shock everyone (Giants 2007, Cardinals 2008). The streak moved to three this

NFL and no one else is even close: Just listen to the names that the Jets top corner looked up this season: Roddy White, Reggie Wayne, Terrell Owens (twice), Randy Moss (twice), Roddy White, Chad Ochocinco, Marques Colston, Steve Smith (Panthers version) and Chad Ochocinco. When I say looked up I mean that not one of those star wideouts had over 35 yards receiving in a game and they combined for a lone TD. He is the only shutdown CB currently in the NFL.

3. *Brett Favre may never retire:* At 40 years old and coming off one of the worst seasons of his career, many scoffed at Favre for deciding to return for another go round. Not only did Favre rebound to have great individual success (career highs in QB Rating, completion percentage, yards per attempt, and TD:INT ratio) but great team success as well as the Vikings reached the NFC Title game. Favre says it's "highly unlikely" that he will return next year, but we've heard that before. All I know is that if Favre wants to play next year, he still has the talent to be a top 5 NFL QB.

2. *In today's NFL, you need a legitimate franchise QB to compete for a Super Bowl:* Look at the signal callers for the 12 playoff teams this season: NFC- Drew Brees, Brett Favre, Tony Romo, Kurt Warner, Aaron Rodgers, Donovan McNabb. AFC- Peyton Manning, Phillip Rivers, Tom Brady, Carson Palmer, Mark Sanchez, Joe Flacco. If you take out the rookie Sanchez and the second year Flacco, every single QB on that list has made at least one Pro-Bowl. Eight of those QBs threw 25+ TDs this season, seven of those QBs passed for over 4,000 yards, and four of them would be put in the Hall of Fame if they never played another down. Now Sanchez is the exception to the rule, but remember that he had the league's top defense to help protect him.

1. *Regardless of what happens in the Super Bowl, the Colts should have gone for 19-0:* Some would say that if Indianapolis wins on Feb. 7 then they are justified for resting their players at the end of the regular season. Actually, I'm of the thinking that it makes it worse, because they could have finished the perfect season if they wanted to. I understand resting a Joseph Addai and Dwight Freeny, who were legitimately banged up, but if they would have played Manning and their healthy starters in their final two regular season games they win both and have a shot at history. You can say "Look what happened to the Patriots Wes Welker" all you want, but 20 years from now no one is going to remember who won Super Bowl XLIV. However had the Colts pulled off 19-0, they would have been immortalized in NFL history. You don't thumb your nose at that.



Courtesy of the Associated Press

QB Peyton Manning and the Colts decided not to go for the undefeated season.

year as the Jets were given little chance in their first round matchup, having a rookie QB and first time coach on the road in the playoffs. Well New York advanced all the way to the AFC Championship game.

7. *Vince Young/Cedric Benson still know how to play football*

6. *There is not a single reliable kicker left in football*

5. *Chris Johnson is the best RB in football and will be this decade's LT:* The Titans' back has blazing speed and torched defenses all year en route to the single season record for yards from scrimmage. Johnson can simply do it all and he will be the consistently great back that dominates this decade year after year, much like how Tomlinson ruled 2000-2009.

4. *Darrelle Revis is the best CB in the*

UMW Budget Woes

◀ BUDGET, page 12

The sports information officer received a raise while the school is seemingly scrambling to save every penny they can, but that is indeed what happened as that position's salary was increased by 4.09 percent.

Meanwhile, the athletic fields' maintenance was decreased from \$118,648 last year down to \$114,063 this year, a decrease of 3.86 percent and the new total marks the lowest that the fields' maintenance budget has been in the past four years.

The field of "team sports - other" was increased a sizeable amount as the budget for that section of the athletic budget rose by 15.65 percent. This increased the allotted amount for that section from \$482,000 in '08-'09 to \$557,431 in '09-'10, an uptick of \$75,431 in funds.

Mary Washington head Athletic Director Ed Hegmann could not be reached for comment and the Assistant Athletic Directors declined to comment.

Mary Washington sports aren't the only athletics around dealing with financial issues.

Fellow CAC school St. Mary's College instituted old-school fundraisers this year, such as selling candy bars and holding car washes, to try and gain extra funds for the athletic department. St. Mary's lacrosse team has reportedly been gaining

aid from donations to the team from alumni and parents to help pay for the team's travel and minor equipment needs since 2006.

Though a much larger school, the University of Virginia is not immune to the economy either.

In fact, they put goals in place

for instance, football is a top-tier sport and receives full grants-in-aid while baseball is listed as a fourth-tier sport and only receives need-based financial aid. Uva figures that this system will allow them to keep their major sports that bring in the most revenue going strong while still saving money by cutting costs of less heralded programs.

Regardless of the sport and regardless of the college or size of that school, all collegiate sports are dealing with cuts. The recession will eventually end, but until then, it's all about colleges weathering the storm and simply making due with what they have.

- Zach Moretti, William Wright, Eric Rolander, and Nathaniel Bent contributed to this story.



Courtesy of flickr.com/photos/terren in Virginia

Uva is another Virginia school that is making changes in athletics due to the economy.

of where the university wants to be in the year 2020. Uva separates their athletic teams into tiers (top-tier sports down to fourth-tier sports) and the funding a sport receives depends on what tier they are in.

Interested in sports writing? Contact Zach Moretti at zmoretti@mail.umw.edu

Upcoming Sports Events

Men's Basketball: 1/30 - Gallaudet University (Away), 2/3 - Stevenson University (Home at 8:00 p.m.)

Women's Basketball: 1/30 - Gallaudet University (Away), 2/3 - Stevenson University (Home at 6:00 p.m.)

Track and Field: 1/30 - George Mason Invitational

Tennis: First Matches 2/6 - University of Richmond (Home at 10:30 a.m.) and George Mason University (Home at 5:30 p.m.)

Baseball: First Games 2/13 - Messiah College (Home at 12:00 p.m. *Double Header*)

Men's Lacrosse: First Game 2/13 - Virginia Wesleyan College (Away)

Softball: First Game 2/20 - Messiah College (Home at 12:00 p.m.)

Women's Lacrosse: First Game 2/20 - St. Mary's College (Away)

Sports

Sports Teams Adjust to Cutbacks

By BULLET STAFF

The men's basketball team left the Mary Washington campus at 3:30 pm on Dec. 4 to travel to Hood College in Frederick, MD. In past years the team took a charter bus; however this season vans serve as the mode of travel to most of the conference games as they are more cost effective.

The vans seat eight people per vehicle, but they are much smaller than the buses and force many taller players to sit uncomfortably for the trip. Pre-season All-American senior Brandon Altmann is the team's 6 foot 9 inch center, and he lamented the switch to vans after feeling the effects following the three-hour trip.

"I was pretty stiff after the ride, and trying to warm up was not as easy as it usually is," Altmann said.

Altmann performed well in the game, but the Eagles fell to Hood 68-58. UMW was coming

conference again this year. Hood finished seventh out of 10 teams in the CAC last year, and though it could be that UMW's basketball team is just not as good as the team they fielded a season ago, the prior win would seem to diffuse that opinion.

Transportation is just one of the changes that the University of Mary Washington has made to the sports budget in an attempt to deal with the economic downturn that has struck almost everyone in the country.

UMW is trying to pinch every penny it can in order to adjust to the decline in funds, and as a result, the athletic budget has decreased from past years.

The athletic budget at Mary Washington consists of many factors, as there is money set aside to pay the Sports Information Officer, to cover athletic fields' maintenance and team sports, but the primary athletic part of the budget is set aside for intercollegiate athletics.

The intercollegiate athletic's budget had risen each of the last three years and saw astonishing increases in the past two years [over a 9.9 percent increase in '07-'08 and an 11.43 increase in '08-'09]. However, for the '09-'10 school year the IC budget was cut by 2.9 percent, from \$1,234,749 last year to \$1,209,475 this year, a budget cut of \$25,264.

The reduction of the intercollegiate budget has caused teams to change the way they used to do things to try and cut costs to fit into the smaller budget. Men's basketball coach Rod Wood commented on some of the changes that his team



UMW Senior Brandon Altmann (40) stands 6 feet 9 inches tall. That's a lot of man to cram into a van.

Courtesy of Clint Offen

has made early in the season to try and adjust.

"We take vans to all away games in our conference except York, Wesley and Salisbury [the farthest games for us]," Wood said. "For those games we share a bus with the girls' basketball team and are forced to leave earlier on game day than if we had our own bus."

Though that may seem to be a minor change, the discomfort and possible effect on play seem quite real. Even when the basketball team does get the luxury of a bus, they have to share it with the women's team and are forced to leave earlier than usual in order to fit both teams' schedules.

Wood continued on to state some major changes he is implementing this year for budget

reasons as well.

"We also only bring about 12 players on the travel team [this year]. Young players are forced to sleep three to a room in some instances."

In past seasons, as many as 14 or 15 players would be on the "travel team," but that number was slashed this year by Wood to adjust with the cuts.

As for overloading on rooms, freshman forward J.R. Gray was one of the players who was left on the short end of that stick on most of the team's road games this season.

"I usually try and get a cot from the front desk, but if that's not available I will deal with it the best I can, and that may mean sleeping on the floor," Gray said.

The Mary Washington women's volleyball coach Dee Conway was frustrated but had a somewhat positive view of the budget situation at the university.

"Budget cuts are having an impact on [everyone] – some more than others," Conway said. "We are just trying to deal with things best we can."

This positive approach is what most coaches here at UMW are trying to take. They understand that the economy is the reason for the budget cuts and that Mary Washington is not just slashing costs simply to save a dollar or two.

An interesting part of the budget cuts, is the things in the athletic budget that the university hierarchy decided to increase in these troubling times.

► BUDGET, page 11

“

Budget cuts are having an impact on [everyone]. We are just trying to deal with things best we can.

– Dee Conway

”

fresh off an impressive victory over last year's Capital Athletic Conference champions, Wesley College, who is also one of the favorites to win the

Transfer Rule Change Needed

By ANDREW ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

The 2009-2010 college football season was one of the more eventful ones in recent memory. However, some of the most significant events from this season occurred off the football field.

In December, the University of Cincinnati's head football coach, Brian Kelly, shocked his players, the university and fans when he announced that he would be leaving the school immediately to fill the Notre Dame head coaching vacancy.

After accomplishing one of the most successful seasons in school history, the undefeated Bearcats were left without their head coach for their BCS Sugar Bowl game against The University of Florida. Cincinnati's undefeated season ended as they lost to the Gators by 27 points.

In January, the University of Southern California's head coach for almost 10 years, Pete Carroll,

abruptly announced he would be the new head coach for the NFL's Seattle Seahawks. Then Lane Kiffin, after only one season as the University of Tennessee's head coach, accepted the offer to fill Carroll's vacant head coaching position at USC.

With both of those coaches gone, what options do the players left at Tennessee and Cincinnati have?

The athletes can remain at their universities and continue their education and playing careers. But what about the players that want to transfer to another school? Well, according to the official NCAA Transfer Guide for 2009-2010, if a student athlete transfers from a four-year school to another four-year school, generally that athlete is not eligible to play at the new four-year school until they spend at least one academic year in residence at that new school.

This rule is mandatory for all Division I & II NCAA athletes that play baseball, basketball, ice hockey, and football. However, there are exceptions. In Division I college football, all teams are labeled Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) or Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) schools. FBS schools are the major college programs like Oklahoma, USC, and Notre Dame. FCS schools are smaller schools that include William & Mary, JMU and Richmond. Technically, according to the NCAA, an FBS football player can be allowed to transfer and immediately begin play if they go to a FCS school. But this idea isn't the best solution for many FBS players.

Going from an FBS school to an FCS school is like having your mother telling you that your family will be going to an authentic Italian restaurant (FBS) for dinner. Later in the day, she then tells you the family will be going to the Olive Garden (FCS) instead.

Now, the Olive Garden is a decent place to catch a nice meal with family, but it's fair to say that most people would prefer the authentic home made Italian meal.

It's true that some football players from FCS schools get drafted every year and some have gone on to have successful careers in the NFL.

However, an FBS football player will have a greater chance to pursue a professional career because FBS players get more exposure due to the amount of national television exposure and the number of professional scouts that attend FBS games.

So, if Lane Kiffin can leave Tennessee and immediately begin his coaching career at USC, why can't one of his star players follow him to the west coast and continue to play for him at his new school?

Or if the player has to sit out after transferring, wouldn't it be fair to force a head coach to sit out a year should he leave a school while he still has a valid contract in place?

Unfortunately, because of the major business implications that college coaches can bring to athletic departments, the idea of coaches sitting out from their job an entire year just isn't feasible.

The next logical idea would be to change the rule for the players themselves. The first time an NCAA athlete decides to transfer from one school to another they should be allowed to play for the transfer school as soon as they arrive on campus. If that player wishes to transfer a second time, then make them sit out a year before allowing them to compete.

With the high turnover rate for head coaches and the big bucks involved in head coaching con-



Courtesy of the Associated Press

After only a little over 13 months at Tennessee, Head Coach Lane Kiffin bolted to California to take the head coaching job at USC.

tracts, the transfer rules for the players should be altered to reflect this pattern in college athletics. After all, the NCAA athletes don't receive any of the money that the coaching staff or the university makes off the sport in which they partake. Therefore the athletes should at least have some of the same capabilities that coaches do when it comes to whether or not they wish to remain at a university.



Courtesy of the Associated Press

Former Cincinnati Head Coach Brian Kelly left his team in the midst of an undefeated season after he accepted the head coaching position at Notre Dame.



Junior Stephen Clendenin
Courtesy of Clint Offen

Athletes of the Week

Swimmers once again take this week's Athletes of the Week awards. Junior Stephen Clendenin won three events over the weekend while senior Nina Sawyer won three races in her own right as both the men's and women's swim team captured a victory over Gettysburg College.



Senior Nina Sawyer
Courtesy of Clint Offen